



# CATAWBA COUNTY

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Public Health

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## CHILD CARE CENTERS IN CATAWBA COUNTY RECEIVE HEALTH & SAFETY CREDENTIAL

Catawba County Public Health's Early Childhood Support Team (ECST) staff are recognizing 37 local child care centers that successfully completed all necessary requirements to receive the **Catawba County Child Care Health & Safety Credential for 2007-2008**. This is the fifth year in which this credentialing program has been offered to child care centers.

**CONGRATULATIONS to the following child care centers: A New Beginning, Abernethy's CDC, Apple Tree Academy of Conover, Apple Tree Academy of Fairgrove, Bethlehem UMC Preschool, Catawba Ridge CDC, Chesterbrook Academy, Children's Academy I, Children's Center FBC, Christ United Methodist Church, CVCC Lab School CDC, Community Ridge Day Care, Concordia Lutheran School, East Newton Playschool, First Baptist Church CDC, First Presbyterian, Newton, Hickory Foundation YMCA CDC, Hickory Montessori School, Hickory Playschool, Kids in Motion Day Care, Le Grande Learning Center, Love-N-Care YMCA CDC, Miss Millie's Child Care Center, Northminster Preschool, Our Family CDC, Quality Care CDC, Shuford YMCA CDC, St. Luke's Preschool, St. Peter's Lutheran Preschool, St Stephens Lutheran Preschool, Tender Care, The Pa-Paw Patch, The Sandbox, The Tyndall Center, TLC, Woodlawn Baptist Church CDC and Word of Life.**

The Child Care Health and Safety Credential is a project led by Catawba County Public Health's Early Childhood Support Team nursing staff, and is funded by Smart Start. Child care centers that receive services from the ECST can participate in this project. Each year, child care centers that strive to go above and beyond what regulations require in the areas of safety, education, and environmental health are awarded the credential. Nursing staff work closely with each center, providing technical assistance in order to help them achieve this distinct level of quality. The credential is Catawba County Public Health's way of rewarding and recognizing child care centers that use best practice in every day operations throughout the year.

A major focus this year for child care centers was to update or submit an emergency action plan to Catawba County Emergency Management System and Catawba County Public Health. As they worked to earn the credential, Child Care providers were required to provide documentation of two routine drills based on their emergency plan. This effort ensures communication between child care center staff, parents, and children in the event of an emergency.

"Child care providers recognize that this approach adds value to their business operation," Catawba County Public Health Director, Doug Urland, said. "As an additional benefit, the Child Care Resource and Referral Center has agreed to inform parents whether a particular child care center has earned this credential when they inquire about child care center openings. Most importantly, the children will benefit from the healthy child care environment this credential represents."

Early Childhood Support Team Nurses are in the process of beginning the sixth year of this program. Please contact Tonya Moss, RN, BSN (828-256-5853) for more information.

*"Keeping the Spirit Alive Since 1842!"*

